

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

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USMISSION NATO

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LONDON PLEASE PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

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TAGS: PINT, PFOR, TU, US, GR, CY, EEC

SUBJECT: ECEVIT GIVES VIEWS ON TURKISH DEFENSE AND FOREIGN
POLICY

REF: ANKARA 3486 (DTG 061330Z MAY 77)

1. SUMMARY: IN REMARKS TO FOREIGN REPORTERS IN ANKARA,
REPORTED IN MAY 8 TURKISH PRESS, REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY
(RPP) LEADER ECEVIT DISCUSSED HIS VIEWS ON THE DIRECTIONS
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IN WHICH TURKISH DEFENSE AND FOREIGN POLICY SHOULD MOVE,
COMMENTING IN PARTICULAR ON TURKEY'S RELATIONS WITH THE
US, NATO, GREECE, AND THE SOVIET UNION AND ON THE CYPRUS
PROBLEM. FOLLOWING ARE ECEVIT'S REMARKS AS REPORTED BY
PRESS. END SUMMARY.

2. DEFENSE POLICY. "FOR TURKEY'S NATIONAL SECURITY, ALLIANCE

WITH THE WEST SHOULD NOT BE EXCESSIVELY RELIED UPON. FOR TURKEY'S SECURITY, THE WEST IS NOT A SUFFICIENTLY RELIABLE GUARANTY. THEREFORE, WHILE ON THE ONE HAND CONTINUING OUR MEMBERSHIP IN NATO, WE WANT ON THE OTHER HAND TO DEVELOP A DIFFERENT NATIONAL SECURITY CONCEPT WHICH, WITHIN OUR OWN ECONOMIC MEANS, WILL PROVIDE SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN TURKEY'S DEFENSE. ON THE SUBJECT OF NATO, IT WILL BE TO THE BENEFIT OF THE WEST AS A WHOLE TO RECOGNIZE GREATER POSSIBILITIES FOR THE EUROPEAN ALLIES IN THE ALLIANCE TO TAKE PERSONAL INITIATIVES AND ASSUME RESPONSIBILITIES. WITHIN NATO, THE USA HAS TAKEN ON A LARGE SHARE OF RESPONSIBILITY. THIS IN TURN CAUSED THE ACCUMULATION, IN THE SAME MEASURE, OF AUTHORITY AND INITIATIVE IN THEIR HANDS. THIS IS REDUCING THE OTHER NATO ALLIES' RESPONSIBILITY AND FLEXIBILITY. WE MUST NOT BE TOO DEPENDENT ON EITHER THE USA OR NATO. A SITUATION CARRYING GREAT IMPORTANCE FROM THE ANGLE OF OUR NATIONAL SECURITY MAY NOT BE AT ALL IMPORTANT TO THE USA OR NATO. FOR THIS REASON, WE MUST DEVELOP A SELF-SUFFICIENT SECURITY CONCEPT WHICH WILL BE LESS EXPENSIVE AND WHICH WILL AT LEAST MEET OUR OWN SPECIFIC NATIONAL SECURITY REQUIREMENTS."

3. RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. "THE BEST WAY FOR TURKEY TO ESTABLISH GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE USA IS NOT TO EXPECT TOO MUCH FROM THE USA. IT IS INCOMPREHENSIBLE FOR A COUNTRY OF TURKEY'S GEOPOLITICAL LOCATION TO TIE HER OWN SECURITY DECISIONS TO DECISIONS WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT EMERGE FROM CONGRESS... WE HAVE BEEN POSTPONING OUR NATIONAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR OVER TWO YEARS, WAITING FOR THE US CONGRESS'S DECISION. THIS IS INCOMPREHENSIBLE, AS I SAID EARLIER. THIS IS A RISK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH WE SHOULD NEVER TAKE."

4. GENERAL FOREIGN POLICY. ASKED WHAT CHANGES HE PLANNED IN FOREIGN POLICY, ECEVIT ANSWERED, "TURKEY'S LOCATION IN THE WORLD IS AT A CRITICAL SPOT. CONSEQUENTLY, OVERLY RADICAL CHANGES CANNOT BE MADE IN HER FOREIGN POLICY. BY ITS HISTORY AND ITS GEOGRAPHY, TURKEY IS TIED TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN ALONG WITH THE BALKANS. WE WANT TO CONTINUE OUR RELATIONS WITH THE WEST IN THE SAME MANNER. BUT THESE HISTORIC AND GEOGRAPHIC ELEMENTS FORM THE BASES OF OUR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND OUR OUTLOOK TOWARD THE WORLD. WE WILL GIVE GREATER EMPHASIS ESPECIALLY TO OUR RELATIONS WITH EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, MIDDLE EASTERN, AND BALKAN COUNTRIES. I AM TAKING THIS IN AN INESCAPABLE FASHION, IN THE FASHION OF AN INDIRECT OPENING TO THE THIRD WORLD."

5. RELATIONS WITH GREECE. ASKED WHAT HE WOULD GIVE PRIORITY TO IN RELATIONS WITH GREECE, ECEVIT SAID, "I BELIEVE THAT ESTABLISHING GOOD RELATIONS WITH GREECE HAS PRIORITY. THIS

IS BASICALLY NECESSARY TO THE ECONOMIES OF BOTH COUNTRIES. NEITHER OF THE TWO COUNTRIES CAN CONTINUE WITH THIS ARMS RACE." ASKED ABOUT THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE, HE ANSWERED, "THE BASIC PRINCIPLE IS THAT THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF IS ATTACHED TO BOTH COUNTRIES AND IT SHOULD BE DIVIDED EQUALLY BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. JUST AS THE DIVISION SHOULD NOT AFFECT THE STATUS OF THE GREEK ISLANDS, THE ISLANDS SHOULD NOT AFFECT THE DIVISION."

6. CYPRUS. "THE SOLUTION MUST BE BROUGHT ABOUT ON THE BASIS OF A NONALIGNED, INDEPENDENT STATE WITH REGIONAL INTEGRITY. I WELCOME THE DIALOGUE WHICH HAS BEGUN BETWEEN DENKTASH AND MAKARIOS. MAYBE WE CAN MAKE PROGRESS ALONG THE LINES OF THIS DEVELOPMENT."

7. RELATIONS WITH THE USSR. "A MUTUAL CONFIDENCE EXISTS CONFORMING TO THE TIES OF FRIENDSHIP WHICH HAVE BEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ESTABLISHED BETWEEN TURKEY AND THE SOVIET UNION," ECEVIT SAID. WHEN ASKED IF HE WOULD SIGN A FRIENDSHIP TREATY WITH THE SOVIET UNION, HE ANSWERED, "I DO NOT GIVE TOO MUCH IMPORTANCE TO SCRAPS OF PAPER. WHAT COUNTS ARE AIMS."

8. EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (EEC). ASKED IF HE WOULD REOPEN TALKS ON THE EEC-TURKEY ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT, ECEVIT ANSWERED, "YES. BUT I DON'T WANT TO USE THAT TERM BECAUSE THEY FEEL A GREAT ALLERGY TO THAT TERM. BUT THAT IS IN MY HEAD." ECEVIT WAS REPORTED TO HAVE ALSO SAID THAT UPON COMING TO POWER HE WOULD BRING THE TURKISH ECONOMY INTO A NEW CONDITION WHICH WOULD TIE IN BETTER WITH THE EEC AND WOULD ESTABLISH A MINISTRY OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC AFFAIRS. MACOMBER

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